

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 1-6 without prejudice and replace them with new claims 7-18 as follows:

Claims 1-6 **CANCELLED**.

7. (New) A method for the production of cement clinker from raw cement meal comprising the steps of:

preheating the raw cement meal in at least one heat exchanger string by directing a flow of exhaust gas from a rotary tubular kiln through the heat exchanger string and towards a system filter,

burning the raw cement meal in a sintering stage of the rotary tubular kiln to form cement clinker,

cooling the cement clinker in a cooler following the tubular kiln,

removing a partial hot flow of the rotary kiln exhaust gas as a bypass gas flow prior to the exhaust gas passing through the system filter, the bypass gas flow being laden with at least one of dust loads, gaseous harmful substances and vaporous harmful substances,

introducing the bypass gas flow into a mixing chamber,

extracting at least one partial stream of the non-dedusted system exhaust gas present in the cement clinker production line at a location upstream of the system filter,

cooling the bypass gas flow in the mixing chamber by the introduction into the mixing chamber of the partial stream of exhaust gas to form a mixed gas flow,

removing the mixed gas flow from the mixing chamber and returning the mixed gas flow into the system exhaust gas flow, downstream of the partial exhaust gas flow extraction location and upstream of the system filter, and thereafter,

separating dust containing harmful substances from the cooled bypass gas flow.

8. (New) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the partial stream of exhaust gas comprises exhaust gas from the raw meal preheater/heat exchanger string.

9. (New) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the partial stream of exhaust gas comprises residual exhaust air from the clinker cooler.

10. (New) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the partial stream of exhaust gas comprises exhaust gases from a mill-drying plant operated by means of exhaust gases from the heat exchanger string.

11. (New) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the mixed gas flow removed from the mixing chamber is returned into the system exhaust gas string upstream of a spray tower preceding the system filter.

12. (New) A plant for the production of cement clinker from raw cement meal, comprising

a rotary tubular kiln,

at least one heat exchanger string, through which the raw cement meal passes towards the rotary tubular kiln in a material flow direction, and through which the exhaust gas from the rotary tubular kiln flows in a gas flow direction,

a clinker cooler following the rotary tubular kiln in the material flow direction,

a bypass gas removal arrangement for the removal of a partial flow of the rotary kiln exhaust gas as a bypass gas flow,

a mixing chamber arranged to receive the bypass gas flow,

a partial flow line branched off from one of the exhaust gas line of the heat exchanger string and the clinker cooler at an extraction point upstream of a filter in the gas flow direction, the partial flow line being connected to the mixing chamber to introduce an extracted partial flow of exhaust gas into the mixing chamber to provide a cooled mixed gas,

a line connecting the mixing chamber to the exhaust gas line at a connection point downstream of the extraction point in the gas flow direction and upstream of the filter in the gas flow direction to introduce the cooled mixed gas into the exhaust gas line, and

a system filter to separate dust containing harmful substances from the cooled bypass gas flow.

13. (New) A plant according to claim 12, wherein the filter comprises the system filter.

14. (New) A plant according to claim 12, wherein the filter comprises a clinker cooler filter.

15. (New) A plant according to claim 12, wherein the extraction point is located in the heat exchanger string.

16. (New) A plant according to claim 12, wherein the extraction point is located at the clinker cooler.

17. (New) A plant according to claim 12, including a mill drying plant and the extraction point is located at the mill drying plant.

18. (New) A plant according to claim 12, including a spray tower preceding the system filter in the gas flow direction and the connection point is upstream of the spray tower in the gas flow direction.